

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 OIC-02 DHA-02

ORM-02 HEW-04 OMB-01 SAM-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SSO-00

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L/UNA:DSTEWART

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG, PORG

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

1. HERewith PROMISED STATEMENT FOR DELIVERY BY
ACTING CHAIRMAN OF U.S. DEL., DR. KAMM, DURING COMMISSION
DEBATE ON MONDAY. WE HOPE IT WILL HAVE MODERATING
INFLUENCE, WHICH WILL BE REFLECTED IN INCREASED SUPPORT FOR
U.S. POSITION AND LESS UNACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION. SINCE IT
WAS NECESSAIRLY DRAFTED WITHOUT BENEFIT OF HOPED FOR
CHANGES IN DR, AS RESULT OF EC-9 NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE
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WEEKEND, DEL IS REQUESTED TO MODIFY STATEMENT, AS

NECESSARY, TO BRING IT INTO ACCORD WITH FINAL TEXT OF DR.

2. BEGIN STATEMENT. MR. CHAIRMAN, I DO NOT THINK THAT THERE CAN BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE UNITED STATES ATTACHES TO THE WORK OF UNESCO IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS. EVER SINCE ITS FOUNDING, TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD A PROFOUND COMMITMENT TO THE FULLEST POSSIBLE EXERCISE OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS IN ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY. MOREOVER, SINCE OURS IS A SOCIETY WHICH EMBRACES A RICH DIVERSITY OF RELIGIOUS,

CULTURAL, AND ETHNIC GROUPS, WE ARE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO THE RIGHT TO PRESERVE ONE'S CULTURAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY.

3. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE CONSIDERED THIS RESOLUTION, AS WE HAVE ALL PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS REGARDING THIS MATTER, WITH THE GREATEST CARE AND OPEN-MINDEDNESS. WE FULLY APPRECIATE THE EQUALLY CONSCIENTIOUS EFFORTS OF MANY OTHER MEMBER STATES TO PRODUCE A DRAFT RESOLUTION THAT WOULD BE MORE IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION THAT ALL OF US-- BUT ESPECIALLY OUR AFRICAN COLLEAGUES AND DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW--HAVE WORKED SO HARD TO CREATE HERE IN NAIROBI.

4. NEVERTHELESS--AND DESPITE THESE SINCERELY MOTIVATED EFFORTS--THE DRAFT RESOLUTION UNDER DISCUSSION IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO MY GOVERNMENT. THE MAJOR DEFECTS OF THE RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, WHICH WE STRENUOUSLY OPPOSED, ARE, UNFORTUNATELY, ALSO TO BE FOUND IN THE PRESENT TEXT. THE INVITATION TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO EXERCISE "FULL SUPERVISION" OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES CLEARLY EXCEEDS UNESCO'S MANDATE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES. MOREOVER, THE CHARGE THAT THE POPULATIONS IN THE AREA ARE NOT ENJOYING THEIR RIGHTS TO NATIONAL EDUCATION AND CULTURAL LIFE IS, AS WE EMPHASIZED TWO YEARS AGO, SIMPLY NOT BORNE OUT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORTS, OR BY THE FACTS AVAILABLE TO US FROM OTHER SOURCES.

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5. THE PRESENT DRAFT RESOLUTION, TOO, CONDEMNS IN ADVANCE--AND I QUOTE--"ALL VIOLATIONS BY ISRAEL OF THE RIGHTS OF THE POPULATIONS LIVING IN ALL THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES TO NATIONAL EDUCATION AND CULTURAL LIFE, AND PARTICULARLY THE SYSTEMATIC JUDAIZATION OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL LIFE." THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPORT TO THIS CONFERENCE DOES NOT DOCUMENT THIS CHARGE, AND NO EVIDENCE

SUPPORTING THIS ACCUSATION HAS COME TO MY GOVERNMENT'S ATTENTION.

6. TO SPEAK QUITE FRANKLY, MR. CHAIRMAN--NOTHING COULD BE SO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSITE--IN LOGIC, FAIRNESS, AND THE SPIRIT OF COOPERATION WHICH NAIROBI WILL ALWAYS SYMBOLIZE --THAN PARAGRAPHS 8 AND 9 OF THE RESOLUTION. WHILE PARAGRAPH 8 ASSERTS ISRAEL'S GUILT, AND CONDEMNS HER WITHOUT ANY HEARING, PARAGRAPH 9 IS CONCERNED WITH THE CONSTRUCTIVE TASK OF ASSEMBLING OBJECTIVE, FACTUAL INFORMATION.

SUCH INFORMATION IS A VITAL PREREQUISITE TO ANY SERIOUS SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF THIS ENTIRE QUESTION--LET ALONE A PROPOSAL TO PASS JUDGEMENT.

7. MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS SINCERELY CONCERNED THAT THE EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING OF THE PEOPLE THAT LIVE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BE MAINTAINED. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE REPORTS TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE RAISE DOUBTS IN THE MINDS OF SOME MEMBER STATES THAT THESE RIGHTS ARE BEING UPHELD. THEREFORE, WE SUPPORT AN OBJECTIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE SITUATION, CONDUCTED IN COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL.

8. WE JOIN WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL IN EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IN REACHING AGREEMENT WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE VISIT OF A FACTFINDING MISSION TO THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES IN EARLY 1977. WE URGE BOTH UNESCO AND ISRAEL TO WORK TOGETHER IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE GOOD-WILL TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO MEMBER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STATES THAT WILL ENABLE A FAIR AND OBJECTIVE DETERMINATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. AT THE SAME TIME WE BELIEVE GREAT CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE IN A MANNER WHICH WILL ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE THE UNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND THE ISRAELIS. CLEARLY, ACTIONS TAKEN HERE WHICH COULD HAVE THE REVERSE EFFECT SERVE THE INTERESTS ONLY OF THOSE WHO DO NOT WISH TO DEVELOP AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION.

9. IT IS WITH SINCERE REGRET THAT MY DELEGATION HAS REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THIS RESOLUTION, DESPITE THE WELL INTENTIONED EFFORTS OF MANY INVOLVED IN ITS PREPARATION, DOES NOT DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL WELL-BEING OF THE POPULATION IN

THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IN A MANNER WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER ITSELF. THE DEFECTS IN THIS RESOLUTION ARE VERY SERIOUS AND VERY FUNDAMENTAL:

--IT WOULD HAVE THIS ORGANIZATION AGAIN EXCEED ITS MANDATE;

--IT WOULD CONDEMN A MEMBER STATE IN THE ABSENCE OF SUPPORTING EVIDENCE AND IN ADVANCE OF AN EFFORT TO GAIN OBJECTIVE INFORMATION;

--AND, FINALLY, IT DOES NOT DEAL CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH THE VERY POSITIVE AGREEMENT REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL AND DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW.

10. I HAVE STATED OUR CONCLUSION IN WHAT I TRUST WILL BE CONSIDERED MODERATE TERMS. THIS DOES NOT REFLECT ANY ABSENCE OF CONVICTION ON OUR PART BUT RATHER THE STRONGLY HELD CONVICTION THAT ALL MEMBER STATES SHOULD SUBORDINATE RHETORIC TO THE PURSUIT OF TRUTH AND, IN THE SPIRIT OF NAIROBI, SO ELOQUENTLY KINDLED BY MZEE KENYATTA AT THE OPENING OF THIS MEMORABLE CONFERENCE, SEEK TO HARMONIZE THEIR VIEWS ON THIS DIVISIVE ISSUE. IT IS VERY FITTING, DURING THIS THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF UNESCO, THAT WE REDEDICATE OURSELVES TO THE UNESCO GOAL OF FILLING MEN'S MINDS AND HEARTS WITH PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD. END STATEMENT.
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